

VOLUME 27 ISSUE 11

NOVEMBER 2021

MSU Tollgate Garden Volunteers Recognition Event ON ZOOM Tuesday, November 9, 2021

The Tollgate Garden Volunteers gathered virtually via Zoom on Tuesday, November 9, to celebrate all of the accomplishments of the Tollgate Garden volunteers over the past two years. Tollgate Farm Manager, Roy Prentice, presented Tollgate's journey over the past two years. While the pandemic presented many challenges, volunteers still cared for the gardens. 2021 saw the return of many annual Tollgate Farm events, which brought joy to the community, volunteers, and staff. As part of the presentation, the two annual Tollgate Garden Volunteer awards were announced. Congratulations to the winners!

Ginger Meyer Award – Kathryn Fitzpatrick – (PAR Garden Leader)



The Ginger Meyer Award, is given annually to recognize the Tollgate Garden Volunteer who shares some of the treasured qualities of Ginger Meyer (one of the owners of Tollgate Farm from 1951 until it was donated to MSU in 1987). The volunteer chosen shows a commitment to Tollgate, a love and knowledge of gardening and a willingness to share that knowledge with others.

Golden Shovel Award - Lynette Leroux

The Golden Shovel Award is presented to the first-year Tollgate Garden Volunteer who registers the most volunteer hours on the site.

No Tollgate Volunteer General Meetings in November and December The Farm News will not be published in December

A Special Thanks!

To all of you who made a donation to help the Tollgate Gardeners make Tollgate a more beautiful place. Your donation is greatly appreciated! The support that you have provided will continue to help our program prosper and grow. Thanks again and Happy Gardening!

Marilyn Alimpich Andy Berry Jayne Berry Bonnie Boak Annie Bolz Susan Bremer Barbara Burke
Angie Carter
Brian Frol
Carmen Hamilton
Vera Hurchik
Kathy Johnson

Lynette Leroux
Paul Lukasiewicz
Carolyn McQuiggan
Judy Poole
Dory Schmidt
Judy Tomaszewski



Photo from MSU Extension website

FROM THE TOLLGATE FARM MANAGER

GREETINGS Roy Prentice

Greetings all,

The 2021 gardening season has ended. It has been a very different sort of year. I appreciate all the hard work that many volunteers devoted to get the gardens through a year that felt like we were gradually returning to normalcy. I have heard from many volunteers that they were appreciative of the site's open spaces and farm vistas. These comments let me know how important it is to maintain and enjoy our green space. I am glad to see that the farm has gotten under the skin of many who care for and value Tollgate. It is a special place thanks to our efforts.

Our Zoom Recognition event was held on Tuesday, 11/9. We decided to hold the recognition event virtually when a survey sent to the membership revealed that people were not yet comfortable meeting indoors. Out of an abundance of caution, we decided to hold off getting together this year. It was a difficult decision.

I greatly appreciate the willingness of the membership to support the farm during Covid via our open-air workdays. I am thankful that we could still get together online. It has been a challenging and eventful year in the gardens. Our president, Renee Cottrell, prepared a PowerPoint presentation for the recognition event and I busily added my little touches. I hope that you had as much fun watching the presentation as I had putting it together. There is a lot of positive energy that comes from getting together in person. The memories

of the November dinner are one of the things that gets me through the winter. I will miss seeing everyone in clothing different than their usual Saturday garden attire. It was fun to finally be able to review all that has happened during the last two years via the presentation. Many people have worked very hard to sustain the gardens during the last couple of years. I hope that you were able to join me for the presentation and enjoy the evidence of our hard work.

Roy

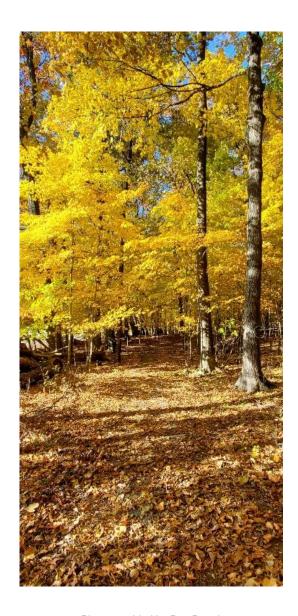


Photo provided by Roy Prentice



"And the glory of the garden shall never pass away."

Rudyard Kipling, English Writer

Notes from the President Renee Cottrell

As the season ends...

What a wonderful and successful season we have had despite the challenges! We had successful plant sales orchestrated by the Nursery Team, bountiful harvest for those in need with the dedication of the PAR Team and beautiful peaceful gardens for the public to find moments of joy and youth groups to see the wonders of nature as they return to outdoor group activities. I hope all of you who volunteered found reward in the services you provided and the success this season in our organizational mission.

MANY THANKS

I would like to express my special gratitude to **Roy Prentice** for all he has done this year working to keep Tollgate running and his never-ending commitment to assisting the Tollgate Garden Volunteers. This season we welcomed the assistance of **Brett Dan** in his support of our volunteer efforts

My appreciation also goes to the TGAC board members and dedicated Chairpersons who continued to meet and contribute to the behind-the-scenes operations of our organization. This group continues to push for the growth of the organization with their time and talents. Your 2022 TGAC will include me as returning President, Marilyn Alimpich, Vice President, and Karen Harris as Treasurer. Our new Secretary is Theresa Bridenbaugh. My special thanks to outgoing Secretary, David Komraus, for his many years of service in that

role. Continuing as appointed Chairpersons, who are members of the board and have served us well this past year are:

Angie Carter, Membership Nancy Powell, Farm News Editor Jackie Stengel, Speaker Programs Teresa LaRosa, Hospitality Kathy Johnson, Communications

We also have members filling the roles of Area Garden Leaders (AGLs) and dedicated Team members who provide leadership and support in the gardens that has allowed Tollgate to be the beautiful, educational "oasis" we strive to create for this community.

IN RECOGNITION

Though we did not gather in person this month to celebrate the season success together I hope my gratitude for all that the members have contributed is evident. This year Kathryn Fitzpatrick has been recognized for her leadership and efforts in the PAR garden as our Ginger Meyer recipient. An award established by Ginger Meyer's family and the Americana Foundation to thank a Tollgate Garden volunteer for their commitment, knowledge and love of gardening and willingness to share those with others, traits Ginger also shared.

Our Golden Shovel award which goes to the newest member (included for 2020 and 2021) who logs the greatest number of volunteer visits for the season is Lynette Leroux. Lynette has been a regular member of the PAR Team,

Notes from the President continued on Page 5

Notes from the President continued from Page 4

assisting in other gardens and providing wonderful insight to the Farm with her photos. Congratulations to both Kathryn and Lynette.

MEMBERSHIP

It is important to renew EACH YEAR so we have the most updated e-mail contacts. To assist us with organization planning I encourage you to renew your membership early, at whichever member level you choose, and do it NOW. It is easy to lose track of these things going into the holidays or away as "snowbirds." The form is attached to this edition of the newsletter.

LOOKING FORWARD TO 2022

We continue to move cautiously forward with hope and positivity. Pandemic concerns continue as evidenced by our own decision to meet virtually for our Recognition event. We are hopeful that as these concerns can be displaced with positive reduction in infection rates, we will garner more interest and willingness for volunteers to step forward and feel comfortable returning to help in the gardens. We are developing our work day calendar, will continue with individual assignments as requested and start our season planning in earnest at the January Garden Teams Meeting via Zoom. Our meetings will continue as Zoom through March with further decisions made at that time, based on those current circumstances. Watch for updates and announcements via email and when the newsletter resumes in January.

Be thankful, joyful and careful this Holiday season. Give your care and patience to those you meet and keep close and cherish those you love.

Thank you for being a Tollgate Garden Volunteer,

Renee Cottrell, Adv. MG, TGV President

Please Renew Your Membership for 2022

Are you an early bird?

If yes, consider renewing your
2022 TGV Membership now.

The form can be found
at the end of this newsletter.

Thank you! Angie Carter

Tollgatemembers@gmail.com





Saturday workdays have ended, and winter prep for the Nursery is almost complete...



into winter with about 1,500 pots - probably a few less than we would like to have. There are many uncertainties about what the winter conditions will be. Ironically it isn't usually extreme cold that causes the problems for overwintering our hardy

We are going



potted perennials, it is the freeze-thaw cycle common in Michigan winters combined with heavy rains in late winter and early spring conditions made more challenging for roots confined in a pot. We accept that there will always be some winter losses but work to minimize them. We will always need spring donations as well, and there are a few plants that we request in spring only because they don't overwinter well in a pot. The most significant examples are Asclepias tuberosa (Butterfly Weed), Anenome japonica (Japanese Anemone) and *Heuchera* (Choral Bells). Regardless of how well stocked the nursery is going into the winter, we will always be looking for more donations in the spring

from your gardens at home, as well as from the gardens at Tollgate!

We're trying out some creative ways to grow more plants for our sales! Despite being a very hardy native plant, we have struggled to maintain a stock of Asclepias tuberosa (Butterfly Weed) plants as our first-year seedlings don't overwinter successfully in a pot. So, last fall we created a seed plot at



the end of one of the nursery rows and planted some seeds.
Butterfly Weed emerges late in the spring, so the

seedlings were too tiny to dig up, pot and sell for the spring sale. But we were able to pot them up a few weeks later and sold almost all at the Fall Sale!



The two remaining plants have been moved into cloth pots that should allow for better drainage.

We plan to overwinter these pots in the shed, keeping them dry and in a more stable temperature environment until spring. Hopefully, these 2 overwintered pots will survive, but we have also again planted seeds in the ground at the end of Row 1 to pot up for sale in the fall!

Left side photos provided by Amy Deeds Top right photo by Peg Palmer Bottom right photo by Deb Kearney

Nursery Notes continued on Page 7

Nursery Notes continued from Page 6

Can we expand our ability to grow seedlings of other plants this way?

Row Leader Pam Rusin thought it was worth trying this idea and has planted some Bee Balm seeds (*Monarda fistulosa*) in a section of one of her rows! Since these seedlings will likely emerge earlier than the Butterfly Weed, we hope to be able to pot these up for the Spring Sale! We should also have some plants available for fall, when they may even be in bloom!



Photo provided by Peg Palmer

We are also trying out another method of overwintering some fall divisions this year.... Shasta Daisies (Leucanthemum supurbum) aren't on our "hard to overwinter" list, as they usually make it through the winter ok... but they have succumbed to excessive spring rains in recent years. We received a large donation of these daisies this fall and gladly potted them up to add to the row. When we received another large donation a few days later, the row was filling up and we also were concerned that a wet spring might doom these pots. We decided to experiment with these divisions – placing them in an open area in another row in the clumps as they were donated, "heeling them in" with some soil around the roots ready to be potted up in the

spring. Since this eliminates the pot that helps to contain the water, these plants may have a better chance to survive a wet spring. Whether successful or not, we will have had another experience to learn from and apply in future.

The published Plants Wanted list is modified by this knowledge of how plants overwinter.... we don't request Japanese Anenome (*Anenome japonica*) in the fall, not because we don't want the plants, but because it doesn't overwinter well in a pot - so we need to get them in the Spring! We focus on getting plant donations in both the fall and spring, because winter is unpredictable, we have limited capacity for how many donations we can process each season, and we know that the gardeners who generously donate to the Nursery do their garden renovations at different times as well!

The Nursery is dependent on divisions of the many great plants in Tollgate Gardens, and donations from the home gardens of Tollgate Garden Volunteers to stock the Nursery and raise funds that in turn support all the Tollgate Gardens! Thanks for your part in maintaining this productive plant recycling operation!

Working in the NURSERY is a unique gardening experience! It provides an opportunity to learn about lots of different types of plants, as well how to maintain healthy perennials in a pot – while generating support for all the Tollgate Gardens. Please contact me if you would like to learn more about the opportunities to join the Nursery Team. palmermargaretanne@gmail.com



PAR GARDEN

Kathryn Fitzpatrick

Our big project to add soil/compost to all 35 beds, as well as add wood chips to all pathways, was completed beautifully, thanks to the exceptional efforts of not only the PAR Garden volunteers and Tollgate Farm staff, but an amazing turnout on two Saturdays of students from the Novi HS Robotics team, who were instrumental in helping us complete a monumental work effort.



FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Robotics Competition team 503, Frog Force, is a Novi HS robotics team of about 100 students ranging from 9th grade through 12th

grade, formed in 2001 to promote STEM learning through competitive robotics. Students work with industry mentors and parent volunteers outside school hours to gain hands-on experience in building and coding award winning robots. Students also participate in marketing, finance, and community outreach activities, such as the Tollgate Farm PAR Garden project.



Frog Force students strive hard to be role models in the community by mentoring younger robotics teams, holding community STEM events, and

helping neighborhood organizations. Students put in over 4,400 hours of community outreach last year alone. As a result of 20 years of advancing appreciation of STEM in the community, Frog Force was inducted into the FIRST Hall of Fame in the summer of 2021. FIRST is a global organization offering competitive robotics programs from PreK through high school to inspire students to be the science and technology leaders and innovators of the future. To learn more about this amazing team, visit their

website - https://frogforce503.org/index.html.





MSU Tollgate staff member, Brett Dan, also masterfully welded our trellis, and we were able to move it to its new location in the garden with considerably more ease and safety than in the past – it truly is a work of art and it is ready to

support two different types of pole beans next year.





Garlic was planted and covered with straw. The raised beds and the renovated beds and pathways were all covered with black plastic.

Top left side photo provided by Kathryn Fitzpatrick Bottom left photo by Renee Cottrell Right side photos by Lynette Leroux

PAR Garden continued on Page 9

PAR Garden continued from Page 8

Spring crop planning has been completed and the order provided to the CSA team, to be added to their plant and seed order for 2022. The PAR Garden has been winterized, and with the application of the black plastic, we expect very little weeding to occupy our time in the garden in the Spring. Time for a little rest and relaxation.





We do have one more project for the garden - to decorate for the Holiday Lights event at Tollgate Farm. No gardening, but our contribution to a beautiful event, so if you like to decorate and/or have outdoor decorations that need a worthy home, please join us for the fun. Check out the picture of

the 2020 display – hopefully we will have even more lights and decorations to delight in 2021.

During this time of thanksgiving, I would like to extend a heartfelt thanks to all for their wonderful contributions to and support of the PAR Garden. The success of this garden depends upon the dedication and hard work of both regular and project volunteers and would not be possible without this support.

Wishing all a Happy Thanksgiving and Happy Holidays! Kathryn Fitzpatrick

The PAR team prepping the beds for winter:







Left side photos provided by Kathryn Fitzpatrick Right side photos by Lynette Leroux

Brick Donation

Tollgate recently received a very generous donation of brick pavers from long-time Tollgate volunteer David Sharpe and the Finnish Center. David is very involved with managing the gardens around the Finnish Center, which is located in Farmington Hills. When David noticed that a large paver area was being replaced and that the old pavers were being discarded, he thought of Tollgate. The old pavers were in great shape, so why not reuse them? The pavers have been retrieved and are now at Tollgate just waiting for a project to give them a new home.





Photos provided by Roy Prentice

Rose Garden Renovation Update

The Tollgate Rose Garden is in the first stages of a major renovation. Due to a devastating bout with rose rosette disease, many of the roses in the garden are no longer alive. To eliminate the disease, all roses in the garden are being removed, the beds are being lowered, and the brick edging is being recovered. Tollgate staff spent a couple of days recently renovating two of the five beds in the garden. A great start! It is planned that replanting the garden will begin next spring.







Holiday Lights – December 16-20

Holiday Lights is our next big event. Volunteers are needed to help decorate the farm on December 2nd & 3rd. For the actual event, volunteers can help check in vehicles and distribute hot chocolate and cookies. Please take a minute to review the signup information in the following link and see if there is an opportunity for you to help with the event. Holiday Lights Volunteer Signup

Last year we were grateful for Area Garden Leader volunteers who helped decorate their gardens. We also greatly appreciated other Tollgate volunteers who did a wonderful job decorating areas around the farm. If you would like to adopt an area to decorate this year, please use the following link to adopt an area(s) to decorate, giving a brief description of your decorating plans: Holiday Lights Decorator Application

If you are not able to help with the event but would like to experience it, come out to see the lights with your family and friends. Here is the link to register for the event Dec 16-20: Holiday Lights MSU Tollgate Farm

Please forward the link to others that you think would enjoy attending Holiday Lights. Pre-registration is required. It is a fun evening as you can stay in your vehicle and enjoy hot chocolate and cookies as you drive through the Holiday lights at the farm and help support all of the wonderful programming available at Tollgate.

Farm Store and Santa Visits Dec. 4th and 5th - the Farm Store will be open with Wreaths and Poinsettias as well as Santa visiting the farm for pictures. Pre-registration is required for Santa Visits. Wreaths and Poinsettias are available for presale through the Farm Store: Farm Store-Santa Registration and Presale of Wreath and Poinsettia. We appreciate and thank you for your support at MSU Tollgate.









Tollgate Gardens are on Facebook and Instagram

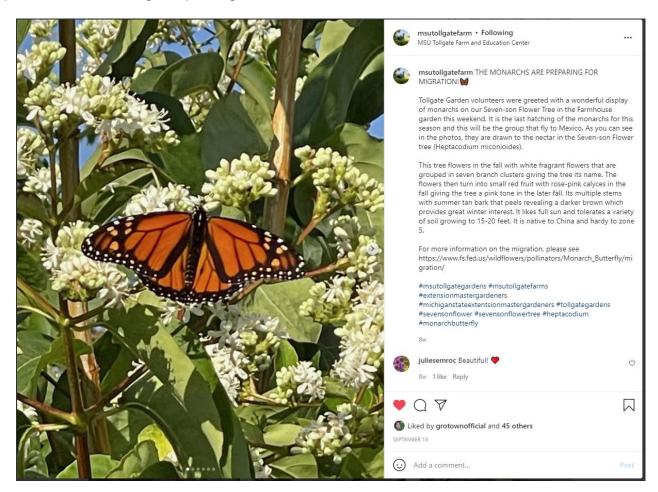


Share the beauty of Tollgate Gardens on Facebook and Instagram

We are posting photos and information about the gardens on the Tollgate Facebook (https://www.facebook.com/ExperienceTollgate) and Instagram (https://www.instagram.com/msutollgatefarm/) pages.

Our posts have been well received and we are increasing the awareness of our gardens, providing education on the plants in our gardens and hopefully encouraging some new volunteers. If you would like to help, please send high resolution photos to Kathy Johnson (kmj@chartermi.net), along with information about the photo like garden name, plant name, and the time of year the photo was taken. Note: photos can be taken over the last few years. If you would like to draft a brief educational text about the plant and its care, please send that also. Kathy will help finalize the post for you and when completed she will coordinate with the Tollgate social media lead to get it published. We would like to have lots of social media posts on the gardens this year!

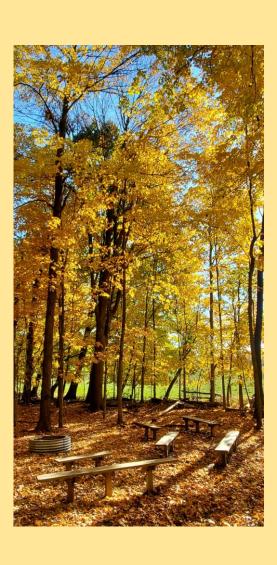
Example of a recent Instagram posting:



FALL ON THE FARM









Photos provided by Roy Prentice

IN THE DEMO GARDEN





Photos provided by Renee Cottrell

AROUND THE FARM







Top photo provided by Renee Cottrell Middle and bottom photos by Lynette Leroux

PAR WORKDAY - NHS ROBOTICS TEAM



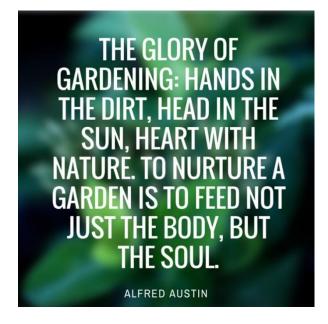






Photos provided by Renee Cottrell











Take a Tollgate Picture

Next time you are volunteering at Tollgate, consider taking some pictures for the Tollgate calendar. The preferred format is jpeg, landscape files. Send photo files at full or actual size in separate emails, if necessary, to TollgateCalPics@gmail.com.



Late fall is a beautiful season at Tollgate. Think about capturing that beauty in a photo for the Tollgate calendar.



We are currently looking for someone to take over the calendar project for 2022. See the next column for information. *



Photos provided by Lynette Leroux

*Calendar Editor Wanted

Every year a calendar is created with submissions of photos from volunteers that depict the Farm and gardens throughout the season. The calendar has a long tradition of recognizing volunteer photographers, the volunteer gardens, and the work that the volunteers do throughout the year to make Tollgate a beautiful and interesting place to visit. We are grateful to Larry Bolam for his past efforts and are searching for a new Editor going forward. Larry will be available to answer questions and exchange the current file of photos to the incoming Editor. This can be a fun and rewarding activity to see and present to others the farm scenes and gardens through the pictures submitted for the Tollgate Calendar.

The new editor would need a computer and the skills to set up files to record dates and authors of the submitted photos and use a calendar creation program of their choice. There are calendar creation programs available to choose from and one would be best if it allows entry of our Tollgate activities, holidays and photo author credit. The new calendar needs to be ready to be submitted to the printer by October 1st to allow review and any corrections for printing by the end of that month. This allows the calendar to be distributed at the Recognition event that is typically in the first week of November.

If you would enjoy working with photos and would be interested in volunteering for this position, please contact Roy or Renee for further discussion and information.

Tollgate Volunteer Information

Activity Days: January - October

- Activity Day hours are 9:00 am Noon, unless otherwise noted on the Activities section of the first page of the newsletter.
- Lunch will be provided on scheduled workdays.
- Active members will continue to get email reminders of these activities.

We strongly recommend you bring your own tools for your garden activities. All tools borrowed from the toolshed <u>must</u> be sanitized with a 10% bleach solution prior to returning the items to the toolshed after use.

TIP: If you aren't getting

The Tollgate Farm News email,
check your SPAM folder

Volunteer Activity Day and
Meeting information
will be communicated by email

Garden Tools Available for Use at Tollgate

Spades Leaf Rakes

Garden Rakes Garden Hoe

Brooms Long-Handled Garden Forks

Wheelbarrows Weed Buckets

Suggested Gardening Implements to Bring from Home as Needed

Trowel Plant Division Forks

Pruners Shrub Rake

Loppers Sun Screen/Insect Repellant

Garden Scissors Garden Gloves
Hand Saw Knee Pads

Weeding Implement

Tollgate Garden Advisory Committee (TGAC)

Farm Manager - Roy Prentice

248-347-3860 Ext.251 prentic1@msu.edu

President...... Renee Cottrell

Vice President Marilyn Alimpich

Secretary..... Dave Komraus

Treasurer...... Karen Harris

Membership...... Angie Carter

Communications Kathy Johnson

Programs...... Jackie Stengel

Hospitality..... Teresa LaRosa

Farm News Editor Nancy Powell

For membership questions or to update your current membership information, email

tollgatemembers@gmail.com

For general information and questions, contact Roy Prentice or see Website:

http://tollgate.msu.edu/volunteering/

- The TGAC meets monthly virtually on Zoom (until further notice) on the first Tuesday of the month at 7:00 PM.
 All Tollgate Garden Volunteer members are welcome to attend and should contact Roy Prentice for meeting link.
- Contact information for individual TGAC members and Area Garden Leaders (AGL) are available by contacting Roy Prentice to have message or contact forwarded for response. Contact info can also be found in the Garden Binders in the Volunteer Communication Center.
- Tollgate Volunteer Membership is renewed annually. The 2022 Tollgate Garden Volunteer membership is from January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022.

MSU Tollgate Farm and Education Center



28115 Meadowbrook Novi, MI, 48377-3128 tollgate.msu.edu Contact Roy Prentice: 248-347-3860 ext. 251

MSU TOLLGATE VOLUNTEER SIGN IN

LOGGING YOUR VOLUNTEER HOURS HELPS US TELL TOLLGATE'S STORY TO THE MSU COMMUNITY

- USING THE CAMERA ON YOUR SMART PHONE, HOVER OVER THE QR CODE
- A LINK WILL APPEAR
- IF NO LINK APPEARS, YOU WILL HAVE TO DOWNLOAD A QR READER APP
- CLICK ON THE LINK TO THE GOOGLE SIGN IN PAGE
- COMPLETE WITH YOUR INFORMATION
- THIS SIGN-IN PROCEDURE DOES NOT LOG YOUR HOURS WITH MSU EXTENSION



NOTE: If you prefer to complete your sign-in on your computer, this link will take you to the site: Tollgate Volunteer Sign In 2021

MSU Tollgate gets a lot of credit for all of the wonderful volunteers that tend the gardens, make maple syrup, and support programming. The farm would not be the unique place that it is without the support of many willing hands. Traditionally, Tollgate has relied on a sign-in sheet in the volunteer center to capture the hours of volunteer service. Many of our volunteers who work in the maple project or distant gardens may not visit the volunteer center when they are on the farm. To capture all of our volunteer hours, we are trying a new recording system. By following the instructions below and scanning the QR code, you can record your Tollgate hours online from anywhere. After you have scanned the code, you can even bookmark the link so that you can access the hours reporting form without the code.

Thank you for making Tollgate such a wonderful place! Roy



MSU Tollgate Garden Volunteers Membership Form

Please legibly print all entries. Thank you.

2022

	Date Submitted
Name	Telephone Number
Address	Day
CityMI	Francis
Zip	Evening
	Email
Name you would like on badge, if needed	
Choose one only:	
Supporting member: I wish to support the volunteers and participate in monthly meetings but will not be participating <i>as a volunteer</i> in garden activities, projects or other events on the site.	
Active member: I plan to participate <i>as a volunteer</i> in meetings, garden activities and/or other events or projects on the site and have or will complete the required Volunteer Selection Process.	
Were you a Tollgate volunteer member last year? Are you interested in serving on a committee or garden project? Yes () No () If yes, please note below if you have a particular area of interest or skills to share.	
A donation in support of the Tollgate Volunteer organization would be greatly appreciated (\$20 suggested). If you would like the newsletter mailed to you rather than emailed, please include an additional \$10 to cover postage. Check here to have the newsletter mailed to you	
Make checks payable to: Michigan State University	
Return to: Tollgate Gardens Volunteer Office 28115 Meadowbrook Novi, MI 48377-3128 Questions: Phone: 248-347-3860 Ext. 251 Email: tollgatemembers@gmail.com	
2022 Membership is from January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022	
Please read this Privacy Policy:	
By filling out and submitting this form you authorize the Tollgate Garden Volunteers (TGV) and MSU to use your contact information to communicate with you via email, newsletters and other formats. If you wish your email and other identification information to not be used by the TGV and MSU, please check this box (). (By checking this box, you will not receive email notification of workdays, or other volunteer opportunities, special events and educational opportunities, or the availability of the newsletter via e-mail.)	
In the event of an emergency please notify:	
Name	Phone